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Developer puts forward scheme for 319 homes

Banbury Rise Phase One, the northernmost part of the development which is west of the existing Bretch Hill estate and nearest to Drayton Road

BIG PLANS TO REVIVE ESTATE

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

BANBURY'S biggest estate could be about to get a whole lot bigger after sweeping plans to build hundreds of homes were finally put forward.

Housebuilding firm Bloor Homes has applied to Cherwell District Council for permission to create a total of 319 new properties in Bretch Hill.

If all goes to plan the development will be built on green space west of Edinburgh Way and will also include new roads and employment space.

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said: "This application has been through the local planning process and now seems to be coming to fruition.

"This will bring much-needed infrastructure to the Bretch Hill area which we hope will revitalise this part of town not only for new people but for existing residents.

"As with any development there will be disruption with traffic and building work but in the long term we hope this will be good news for this part of Banbury."

The firm secured outline planning permission to build up to 400 homes on the site last March, with full planning permission for the first 110 granted in August.

This new application for full planning permission would bring the total number of homes up to 429, with a further 51 specialised homes planned for over-55s.

Bloor Homes Western planning director Nick Rawlings, said: "This development will make a significant contribution to meeting Cherwell's housing needs.

"There has been a notable shift in demand from the marketplace towards smaller four, three and two-bedroom properties, and we have therefore reviewed our plans. We are confident that our proposals, which include a 28-acre linear parkland, will deliver an attractive and high-quality development for the town."

A total of 236 properties, all two-storey with a mixture of two, three and four bedrooms, will be for private ownership, with a further 39 for rent.

Eighteen are likely to be shared ownership and 26 are classed as 'discount' housing for groups such as young first-time buyers or those on rent-to-buy schemes.

According to Cherwell's planning policy at least 30 per cent will need to be 'affordable', meaning flats could cost about £120,000 or houses about £180,000.

Plans to 'rejuvenate' Bretch Hill have been on the cards for years as part of Cherwell's local plan and the green space has been earmarked for housing.

If plans are approved Cherwell District Council will also require Bloor Homes to provide public art on the site to enhance community areas.

Neighbours and community groups have until March 8 to respond. Search for 17/00189/F on Cherwell's planning website.

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Historic office space all set for conversion into new dwellings

Planning bosses pass applications to build modern apartments

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

Grade II-listed Mercia House is being turned into apartments

AS PLANS to build more than 300 homes in Bretch Hill are unveiled, a further 18 new homes are also now on the way to Banbury.

Last week planning bosses approved two applications to build 10 apartments in a listed Georgian building as well as new homes off Warwick Road.

The historic office block at 51 South Bar Street, Mercia House, will be converted to create the five two-bed and five one-bed apartments.

It is a Grade II-listed building dating back to the 19th Century but has a large, modern extension to the rear and already had permission for business use.

The doors and windows on the south elevation of the building will be affected as part of the changes but they do not face onto South Bar Street.

Cherwell District Council lead member for planning Colin Clarke said: "We consider this an acceptable proposal which will help keep a listed building well maintained.

"This is important if we are to keep the frontage of Banbury's historic town centre looking its best.

"We do regret the loss of employment space but the property has been empty for a number of years, and was originally used for housing.

"The changes being proposed to the exterior of the building are sympathetic to its character and we are satisfied its historic status will be preserved."

Elsewhere, a total of 20 houses are now set to be built on land east of Warwick Road rather than the 12 previously approved, as part of a development totalling 118 homes.

They will follow the designs already set out but will occupy slightly more land in what Mr Clarke called a 'relatively modest' change.

As part of the agreement the developer, Persimmon Homes, will also help fund bus links to the town centre.

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YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR DENTAL CARE

Barry Whitehouse, who owns The Artery art shop, was helped in his ambition to be an artist by the sacrifices his mum made. Now, in her memory, he is offering free art classes to underprivileged young people Picture by Jon Lewis

Painter pledges free classes for struggling artists

Gesture is in memory of mum who helped him get where he is today

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

FREE art lessons for disadvantaged young adults are being launched at a Banbury shop in memory of the owner's mother.

Barry Whitehouse, a professional painter who runs The Artery in Parson's Street, was supported in his endeavours from an early age by his mother Margaret.

Shortly before her death at 72 last year from cancer she and her son discussed how The Artery could honour her memory by providing art education to everyone.

The result was the Margaret Whitehouse Memorial Fund, a six-month programme of free education opening for applications on Thursday, March 2.

Mr Whitehouse said: "My mother started at art college and used to help out at primary schools, and supported me with my dad throughout my career.

"I started exhibiting when I was 14 and I couldn't drive to exhibitions, so they gave up a lot.

"We came from quite a poor background and they helped me move my career forward. It's something I want to do in a similar way."

Every six months three young people aged 18 to 25 will be offered lessons in a variety of artistic skills to broaden their creative horizons.

Overall participants will receive almost £1,000 worth of free art education and if The Artery can gather more funds the programme could be opened to bigger numbers.

Mr Whitehouse said: "As well as a traditional fine art class it helps with critical thinking, fine motor skills and abstract thought.

"It's useful for areas outside of art in all aspects of work. Everything we use or touch has been designed or made or created by someone."

The course is open to any adult aged 18 to 25 with no qualifications in art, even at GCSE level, and in a financial situation that means they can't afford training.

At the same time a new Margaret Whitehouse Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement has also been launched for the venue's regular students. Every year one student who has excelled in a particular piece of work will get the award along with a £50 voucher to spend at the summer Banbury Art Fest.

To find out more about the upcoming lessons call The Artery on 01295 275150. To help support the project with a donation visit tinyurl.com/h426gvb.

Designer homes

VIEWS are being sought on a design plan for future housing. The Cherwell Residential Design Guide will consider layout, design and materials.

District councillor Colin Clarke said: "The local plan, which was approved in July 2015, sets out a clear vision for housing growth across Cherwell over the next 15 years and good design is fundamental to the delivery of this vision."

Cherwell District Council has launched an online survey to consult residents on the specifics. Take part up until March 10 at http://bit.ly/2mhNvPZ

Hospice board

KATHARINE House Hospice is looking for people to join its board of trustees.

The Adderbury hospice offers specialist end-of-life care to hundreds of people with terminal illnesses in Oxfordshire each year.

It is particularly looking for candidates with a background in communications, fundraising, HR, finance, nursing and hospice governance.

Anyone able to help should visit tinyurl.com/j3ssskp for a trainee recruitment pack or email richard.greaves@khh.org.uk.

Calling RAF vets

VETERANS of the RAF, including National Service, in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire have been invited to meet new friends.

The "happy and informal group" meets regularly and also hosts talks and trips.

For more information call Peter Jackson on 01865 873246.

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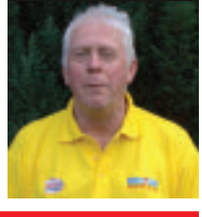

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Horticultural experts preserving juniper seeds used to make gin after species declines across the UK

Juniiperus communis

THE future of gin production in the UK has been safeguarded by horticultural experts who collected juniper seeds from Oxfordshire to conserve the declining tree species.

Juniper berries, which take two years to mature, help give the alcoholic drink its distinctive flavour, but the native UK species is in decline.

The UK National Tree Seed Project was set up by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to collect seeds from juniper and other UK tree species and store them in the Millennium Seed Bank to ensure they do not vanish from the countryside.

The project has 'banked' 5.8 million seeds from 6,500 UK trees since May 2013, with the aim of collecting seeds from all native woody plants, and juniper is the first species to be fully collected and saved.

Some 50 collections of seeds have been made from juniper trees and shrubs across Britain, including Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Cumbria, Conwy and the Scottish Highlands.

They are taken to the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst, Sussex, where they are put through a rigorous process including being cleaned, dried and examined to make sure they are viable, before being stored underground at -20°C.

Juniper, which is important not just for gin but supporting other wildlife, is facing a range of problems including fragmented populations and difficulties regenerating successfully, as old trees and shrubs produce fewer seeds and young plants are eaten by deer and rabbits.

Plants are also being hit by a fungus-like disease, Phytophthora austrocedri, which causes foliage to die.

The National Tree Seed Project said preserving juniper seeds will help with conservation work and research, without which experts have warned it might be 'last orders' for the

Hospital future a 'local decision'

A BANBURY councillor has been told by the Department of Health that the future of services at Horton General Hospital is 'a matter for local determination'.

Mark Cherry, who represents Banbury Calthorpe on Oxfordshire County Council, wrote to the DoH with concerns about the impact of sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) on the Banbury area.

Phase one of a consultation on the Oxfordshire arm of the STP is under way. It involves the centralisation of some services from Banbury to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, including acute stroke and maternity.

Mr Cherry said: "If A&Es across the John Radcliffe and Horton Hospitals are over-stretched now surely it's madness to consider downgrading the Horton."

Following a letter to the Prime Minister dated January 7 in which he called for more funding for the NHS Mr Cherry received a reply from Lynn Wade, who handles correspondence and public enquiries at the DoH.

She said: "The government needs an NHS ready for the future. To do this, local service leaders in every part of England are working together for the first time on STPs.

"The government appreciates there is local concern for the future of services at the Horton General Hospital. However, this is a matter for local determination.

"A full version of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West STP is due to be published this month with further engagement and, where required, public consultation, to follow."

Finding a parking space at county's hospitals is a challenge for patients and visitors.

Fury over lack of parking spaces

Hospital supporters left exasperated as authority rules out adding spaces

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

SUPPORTERS of the Horton General Hospital have been left exasperated after it was announced no further parking will be added to Oxford's hospital sites.

Last week Oxford City Council planning boss Alex Hollingsworth said planning policies for the three sites in Headington blocked future development.

It comes after a survey by Banbury MP Victoria Prentis revealed waits by North Oxfordshire patients of up to an hour to find a space at the John Radcliffe.

Mr Hollingsworth said: "The council's planning policies for the hospital sites in Headington aim to limit the amount of parking on site. Additional parking will generate more traffic on local streets that are already congested. Major employers across Oxford have worked hard to provide alternative ways of getting their staff to work using public transport and the trust is no different."

Patients have for years routinely complained about long delays getting to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Churchill Hospital and Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre as well as difficulty parking.

Oxfordshire County Council deputy leader Rodney Rose has been attending the JR for cancer treatment and lambasted the decision.

He said: "If they were talking about adding an eight storey car park I could understand but to stop any spaces being added at all is just crackers."

Members of the Save Our Horton campaign group were flummoxed by the announcement.

Part of a sustainability and transformation plan (STP) for NHS services in the county includes proposals to centralise some services from the Horton to the JR. Banbury campaigner Val Ingram said: "I'm not quite sure where this puts plans for the Horton. They said they needed to sort out parking to implement these measures.

"It's all a pack of nonsense really and I have a lot of sympathy for patients in Oxford. If people that lived here could go to hospital here, we would not have this problem."

In a post on the Save Our Horton Facebook page, group member Eleanor Wilson said: "So, they reduce services at the Horton, sending more traffic through to Oxford – then won't let us park in order to get to our appointments, so cause a backlog on the roads. Makes perfect sense."

Lisa Clark added: "All the more reason for our Horton to be saved and all its services too."

Advice issued by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust warns patients to leave up to an hour to find a parking space at the Headington sites. The trust has stated it is working on a 'masterplan' to ease the problem and has encouraged people to use park and ride services where possible.

Poppy Campion, who is supporting SeeSaw with a hula hoop challenge
Photo: Damian Halliwell

Volunteers call by child charity

More youngsters are in need of counselling to cope with loss of loved one

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

A RAPIDLY growing Oxford charity which supports hundreds of bereaved children each year is calling for more volunteers.

Demand has risen by nearly a quarter as 415 children were supported in Oxfordshire by SeeSaw over the past year and staff expect the trend to continue into 2017.

A dedicated team of about 11 volunteers supports hundreds of children but as the need grows so does the need for more volunteers.

The Headington-based team work with children from age five to 18 to help them come to terms with the loss of a loved one.

Nine-year-old Poppy Campion was supported by the charity last year when her grandfather Grahame passed away, aged 81, in March.

The youngster from Summertown, Oxford, who has since raised £3,485 for the charity said: "SeeSaw really helped us an awful lot. They made me understand that its okay to be sad and for my family to be sad.

"It made it so much easier to talk about my grandpa."

Poppy fundraised by taking part in a sponsored hula hoop challenge in memory of her grandfather.

Mum Vicks Campion added: "When my father passed away Poppy really was just a broken little girl but it's incredible to see the difference over three months. It's extraordinary.

"The biggest thing was getting Poppy to understand grief is okay, as it became clear early on she had been bottling it up to protect me."

She added: "To have something like SeeSaw to help us through such a difficult time made the process so much quicker than any other route.

"If we hadn't used them I think Pops would still be struggling with the grief now."

The charity, near Headington, is hosting a taster evening tomorrow for potential support workers.

SeeSaw children and families practitioner Jenny Armstrong said: "The taster sessions are a chance for people to come and find out about SeeSaw before an interview and training.

"Quite rightly people come and go as their life takes a different direction, but we are at that point now where we could do with more volunteers."

Ms Armstrong said volunteers worked with children in their own homes on a one-to-one basis to help them to come to terms with their grief.

From left Jane Elliott, Jackie McDowell, Anne-Marie MacMillan, Jill Childs, Lesley Duff with Kathy Moore (front) and Cindy the dog at SeeSaw which is seeking more volunteers. Picture Damian Halliwell

She added: "Children often protect their parents and often don't want to talk about a loss in case they upset them – that is where we can come in."

Volunteers are expected, on average, to volunteer about 16 hours a month, although this is flexible.

It is run with the help of donations and grants and in 2015 supported 339 children, with the total growing to 415 children last year.

Volunteer Anne Taylor, who has been with the charity for about a decade, said: "I find it a challenge but one that is really rewarding.

"Going in and seeing children when they are obviously going through a difficult time and working with them through and out the other end is really great.

"It is support that isn't provided by any other organisation and lots of families have other things going on but just to have that person to talk to makes such a difference."

The volunteer taster day is being held from 6pm.

To book a place contact info@seesaw.org.uk

MP's visit to site of retirement complex

THE MP for Banbury has toured the site of a new £12m retirement living complex in the heart of Banbury.

Foundations have now been laid at the Bath Road site, which will include 78 supported homes for over-55s.

The development, Park Gardens, will also feature a cafe bistro and lounge, activity studio, gym, hair and beauty salon, landscaped gardens and parking.

Contractor Bromford is about to begin setting up the central steel structure for the site and workers have taken Banbury MP Victoria Prentis on a tour.

Mrs Prentis said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my visit.

"It will have some great views over People's Park and I am sure it will really enhance our local area.

"I am very glad that Bromford has chosen to invest in Banbury and I hope to come back and see how the project is getting on in the near future."

Work began on the site in November after vacant buildings formerly belonging to Banbury and Bicester College were demolished. The college moved its media and motor vehicle facilities to a £6m centre in Broughton Road three years ago.

Bromford chief executive Philippa Jones said: "It was a really productive meeting and Victoria was very complimentary about the way Park Gardens will offer residents the opportunity to live in a lively and vibrant community."

Victoria Prentis, centre, takes a tour of the site with staff from Bromford

Drivers warned county's potholes

Council 'fighting' to keep roads up to par

Sophie Grubb
sgrubb@nqo.com

POTHOLES that continue to plague the county's roads will not be wiped out anytime soon, a transport head has warned.

Oxfordshire County Council ordered the repair of more than 25,800 road and footpath ruts in the past year alone, but its cabinet member for transport admitted it is 'fighting' even to maintain the current crumbling state of the roads.

David Nimmo Smith said that the roads 'will not get any better' despite a Government grant pledged specifically for potholes, insisting there is nowhere near enough cash to cover costs of smoothing over the council's 2,800-mile road network.

He said: "The mantra we have is to maintain the roads as best we can. We need around £160m to bring roads up to motorway standard, and £20m a year to keep that level. We haven't got that money.

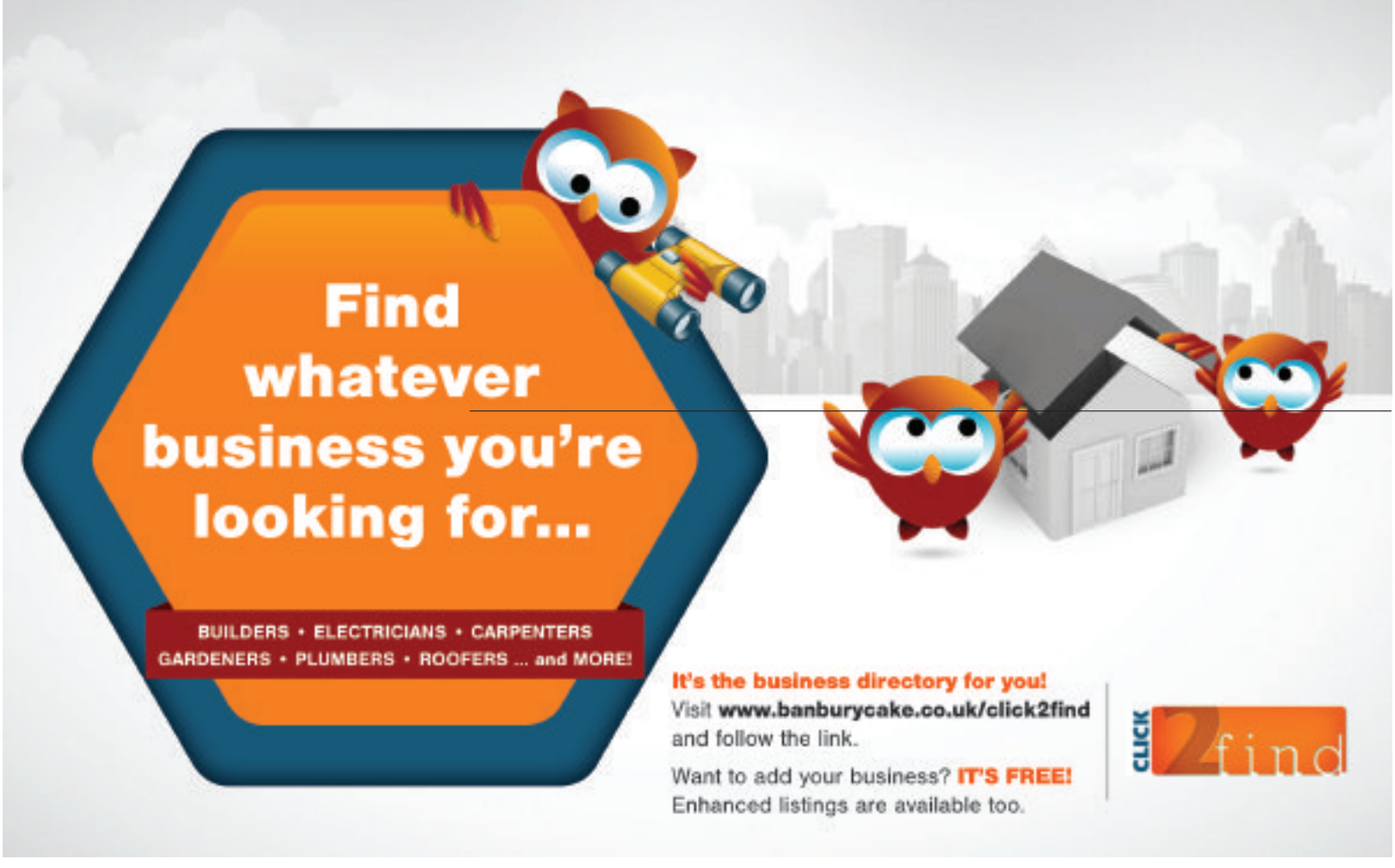
"We are fighting just to keep the roads in the condition they are at the moment, and I admit some of them are less than satisfactory. Some people don't accept that – as a member of the public myself I don't accept it; I don't like the condition of our roads but we haven't got the money to deal with it."

He welcomed a £1.3m cash injection from the Government's Pothole Action Fund for the 2017-18 financial year and said it would 'go a long way' to maintain roads, but said much more cash was needed for a pothole-free Oxfordshire.

He said the 'dragon' machine brought in to blast potholes with flames was giving 'more bang for our buck'. But chairman of Kennington Parish Council Colin Charlett called on the council to cough up more, branding the county's roads 'diabolical'.

He said: "As soon as you come over the county boundary you can tell you're in Oxfordshire. It's awful.

"They come round and chuck a bit of Tarmac on



here to stay

Potholes on Catherine Street in East Oxford

it, whack it down and a year later they have to come back and do the same thing."

One person referring to a crater in Barton Village Road on Fix My Street said: "The fact that you are cycling downhill makes this an even more dangerous situation. It is only a matter of time before there is an accident."

North Oxford resident Philip Cresswell has complained of potholes puncturing Wentworth Road where he lives, which have repeatedly collapsed despite being 'fixed' three times in the past year.

The 63-year-old said: "I don't expect them to blitz them all but they ought to do something new that will last. It's a waste of everybody's time."

Handyman Mr Cresswell said he even drives around with a sign in the back of his van saying 'I'm not drunk, I'm just avoiding potholes'.

Council spokesman Martin Crabtree said recurring defects can indicate 'underlying problems' that may merit the road for inclusion in the council's planned maintenance work programme.

He added: "We are constantly working on different techniques and treatment types. Permanent repairs come with a two-year guarantee and this is audited showing a 98 per cent pass rate."

Mr Crabtree said failures are repaired at the contractor's cost and described the state of the roads as 'generally stable'.

He added: "Our road conditions on the whole are in line with than the national averages - there is absolutely nothing unique or unusual about Oxfordshire. We work all year round and all hours to maintain our roads and fix potholes."

To report a pothole go to fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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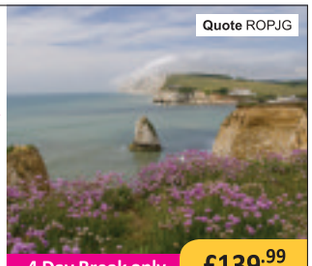

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Wardens step in

THE call for Banbury 'snow wardens' has been answered by Cherwell District Council (CDC), which has promised to cover swathes of the town.

Last month Banbury Town Council appealed for businesses to help gritting pavements in the shopping streets and recruited Betts Butchers in Church Lane as a result.

Now CDC has stepped up to the plate, taking responsibility for Market Place, Parson's Street, High Street, Broad Street to George Street, Butchers Row and Bridge Street.

No jail for police-chase driver

A MAN drove into oncoming traffic in an effort to escape police but was spared jail so he could support his pregnant partner.

Michael Cowley, of Deacon Way, Banbury, was convicted of dangerous driving in September and was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on Friday.

He was convicted after an incident on April 9 when police were hunting for a man who was a passenger in Cowley's car.

As Cowley drove the Peugeot into Deacon Way police spotted the wanted passenger, prompting Cowley to race off before turning right onto Wood Green Avenue and straight into oncoming traffic.

He turned off into a garden area before abandoning the car.

Judge Lamb said: "The reality is that you probably ought to be going straight inside today. I had in mind a period of nine months because dangerous driving, particularly when being pursued by police, is taken very seriously indeed."

But in light of his partner's pregnancy he was handed a prison sentence of nine months suspended for 18 months.

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Members of the John Cleveland Band in concert

Big band tuning up to help churches

Date set for ensemble's fundraising gig

Hannah Somerville
h.somerville@nqo.com

AN ENSEMBLE of talented musicians will entertain crowds at a fundraiser next month to raise vital cash for two Banbury churches.

On Friday, March 4, the John Cleveland Band will play everything from big band classics to Abba and West End numbers in aid of St Mary's and St Francis Churches.

The band was founded in 1976 at a college in Leicestershire and has gone on to perform for charitable causes up and down the county.

All funds raised from the event, which runs from 7.30pm at St Mary's, will go towards the churches' work in the community over the coming year.

It last appeared in Banbury in September 2016 at a well-received fundraising concert in Tudor Hall.

Tickets for the event cost £10 and a bar will be available on the night. Seats are not allocated. Call 01295 253329 or 01295 753752 to book.

VictoriaPrentisWestminsterViews

MP FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Let's keep our area tidy, green and above all clean

NEXT week, I am really looking forward to taking part in the first Great British Spring Clean on 3-5 March. It is another initiative from Keep Britain Tidy, who were behind last year's successful Clean for the Queen campaign which saw hundreds of thousands of people from across the country tidying up their local areas before the Queen's ninetieth birthday. On my parents' farm in Aynho we were always taught to pick up any litter we found on our walks. All of my family have enjoyed more organised village litter-picking, and I found getting involved with the organisation of Clean for the Queen to be a natural progression. Since then, litter has become something of an obsession and I am now spending much of my time drumming up support among my Parliamentary colleagues for the Great British Spring Clean, as MPs are often good at getting wider community groups involved.

Last year's campaign saw some brilliant events, both in the constituency and across the country. I really enjoyed visiting schools and other local community groups, including Bure Park Primary School and Hill View School. Getting people outside to help clean up their local areas was really rewarding. I hope that this year's initiative will be even more successful and that it will become an annual fixture. Last year, 250,000 people got involved – this year, we are hoping to see over 500,000.

Along with organising the Great British Spring Clean, I have begun to wage a war on disposable plastic bottles. I have had some really interesting discussions with BRITA UK, who are based in Bicester, and WRAP, a very effective waste and recycling organisation in Banbury. At the end of last year, I chaired a Parliamentary roundtable discussion on disposable plastics, hosted by BRITA, in Westminster. There were some good new ideas on how to help people find reusable alternatives to disposable plastics. According to BRITA, by 2050 there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish. Even a bottle dropped in our landlocked county of Oxfordshire is likely to end up in the sea.

North Oxfordshire has a mix of rural and urban areas, and it is important to keep both clean and tidy

There is so much we can do to help make our local area an even more pleasant environment to live and work in. North Oxfordshire has a real mix of rural and urban areas, and it is just as important to keep both clean and tidy. Litter undoubtedly breeds more litter. When wider issues of Brexit or saving the Horton can seem overwhelming at times, it is good to focus on the truly local.

For more information on the Great British Spring Clean, take a look at: http://www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk.

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Come along to our Recruitment Day to find out more. Alternatively apply online at: www.ouh.nhs.uk/hart-support

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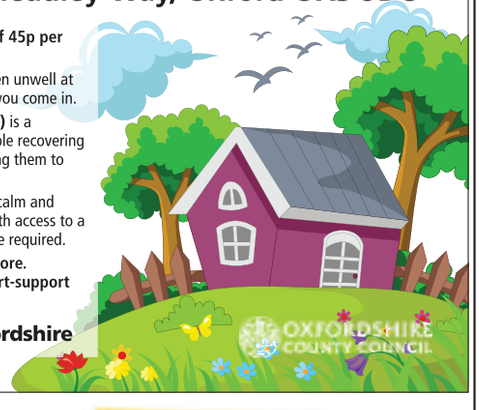
Providing Reablement across Oxfordshire



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‘One council’ critics attack £35 handouts for people’s opinions

County claims this is standard practice but opponents relate the £3m cuts to day centres

CASH-STRAPPED Oxfordshire County Council is giving £35 handouts to people taking part in its controversial “super council” consultation – despite facing millions of pounds in cuts.

The county council said this was “standard practice” and claimed it was “paranoia of the highest order” to suggest otherwise.

But it was branded “just wrong” and “extraordinary” by critics.

Oxford City Council deputy leader Ed Turner said it was “wasteful” after cutting services for the disabled and elderly.

The city council opposes plans for a council shake-up, which could see it and other authorities abolished and replaced.

Mr Turner said: “At a time when the county council says there is no money for vital services like elderly day centres, children’s centres and homeless hostels, I am astonished it is giving bundles of banknotes to people taking part in its consultation exercise as it tries to get other councils abolished.

“This so-called consultation has felt biased from the word go and this latest action just discredits it further.”

Lynda Atkins, an independent county councillor, added: “I am fairly appalled. Conducting focus groups may be marketing industry practice if you are coming up with a new brand of toothpaste or socks, but I don’t think it should be for a political issue.”

Oxford City Council deputy leader Ed Turner

Independent county councillor Lynda Atkins

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

The Swansea-based company hired by the county council, Opinion Research Services, has been phoning members of the public and offering them the £35 incentive to attend workshop events, such as one held in County Hall last night.

A letter to someone registered to attend – passed to the *Oxford Mail* – said: “You will receive an incentive of £35 cash to cover any expenses you may have incurred in attending the workshop and as a token of our appreciation for you finding the time to come along.”

County council spokesman Paul Smith said: “It has for many decades been standard practice for those invited to take part in a focus group to be given a small payment for their time and to cover out of pocket expenses, whether that be a focus group set up by a council, another part of the public sector or a private sector body.

“It is market research industry good practice and commonplace and is viewed as essential to get a reasonable cross-section of participants.

“The fact people receive this recompense for their time does not influence feedback they give. To suggest otherwise is paranoia of the highest order and runs against the whole concept of focus groups.”

But the handouts offered by the county council are just the latest example of a costly campaign being waged online and over the airwaves by it – and other authorities – at the taxpayer’s expense.

The county council says it has put aside £200,000, including £100,000 for a study, to promote its “One Oxfordshire” proposal, which it argues could save £20 million a year.

This would involve scrapping all six of the biggest councils, including the county council itself, and replacing them with one super authority.

The county council, supported by Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils, argues this will end duplication and make services better value for money.

But opponents say the new Oxfordshire-wide organisation will be distant from local communities, with the city council saying the needs of people in the city are too different from rural areas.

It has also just committed thousands of pounds towards an advertising and marketing campaign against the super council.

The county council said it held five focus group events on the “One Oxfordshire” proposal, with 18 people paid for their time so far – a total cost of £630.

It comes after the authority passed its latest budget on Monday. This included changes that will save £3.14m by reducing the number of council-funded day centres for the elderly and disabled from 22 to eight.

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Tribute to real-life heroism

PATRIOTS DAY **(15, 133 mins) Thriller/Action/Romance. Mark Wahlberg, Kevin Bacon, John Goodman, Michelle Monaghan, JK Simmons, Alex Wolff, Themo Melikidze, Jimmy O Yang, Vincent Curatola, Michael Beach. Director: Peter Berg**

DIRECTOR Peter Berg and leading man Mark Wahlberg previously collaborated on the testosterone-fuelled action thrillers *Lone Survivor* and *Deepwater Horizon*.

They draw inspiration from another harrowing true story of heroism for this gripping race against time.

Patriots Day introduces a fictional character into the heart of real-life terrorism – the bombing of the 2013 Boston marathon – to pay rousing and sometimes overblown tribute to the men and women who risked their lives in the name of justice.

The script's queasy conflation of fact and artistic licence runs the risk of glamorizing the hunt for the perpetrators.

Vehicles explode, hundreds of bullets scythe through the air, transforming a sleepy nook of suburban Massachusetts into a flaming, debris-strewn war zone. It's certainly a pulse-quickening, edge-of-seat rendering of a senseless act that made headlines around the world.

On the morning of April 15, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (Alex Wolff) and his brother Tamerlan (Themo Melikidze) head into Boston with homemade bombs concealed in rucksacks.

They move into the thick crowds of spectators thronging the marathon course, drop the bags and move to safety before detonating the devices in quick succession near the finish line.

Hundreds of people are injured in the blasts.

"We've got to decide who's running this and we've got to decide quickly," Deval Patrick (Michael Beach), the Governor of Massachusetts, tells Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis (John Goodman) and the assembled responders.

"It's terrorism, we'll take it!" responds FBI Special Agent Richard DesLauriers (Kevin Bacon) as he discovers fragments of a bomb at the scene.

Sergeant Tommy Saunders (Wahlberg) and his wife Carol (Michelle Monaghan), a registered nurse, are on the front line during the man hunt.

Their resolves are tested along with Boston's mayor Thomas Menino (Vincent Curatola) and other figures in public office including Police Sergeant Jeffrey Pugliese (JK Simmons).

Patriots Day seamlessly blends footage shot by witnesses, who were in Boston that day, with grainy reconstructions to document events before the explosions up to the point that one of the suspects is found hiding inside a boat.

Berg's bombastic approach to action sequences sets our pulses racing and he effortlessly holds us in a vice-like grip for more than two hours, even if we know the chain of events from news coverage.

The voices of real-life survivors and officers reverberate over the end credits, hammering home the true valour and sacrifice behind the expensive Hollywood pyrotechnics.

A CURE FOR WELLNESS **(18, 146 mins) Thriller/Fantasy/Horror/Romance. Dane DeHaan, Jason Isaacs, Mia Goth, Celia Imrie, Harry Groener, Ivo Nandi. Director: Gore Verbinski**

GORE Verbinski, director of the opening three salvos of the *Pirates Of The Caribbean* series and *Rango*, slinks into bonkers territory usually inhabited by Tim Burton and Wes Anderson in this unsettling and achingly stylish psychological thriller.

Set predominately in a spa located in the Swiss Alps, *A Cure For Wellness* casts an intoxicating spell with its deliberately off-kilter camerawork, hallucinogenic set pieces and discordant orchestral score composer by Benjamin Wallfisch.

It's an impressive amalgamation of colour-bleached production design and slow-burning suspense reminiscent of the high-altitude madness of *The Shining*.

Alas, a sustained build-up of tension dissipates in a ludicrous final act that repeatedly chooses cheap, salacious shocks over plausibility, leaving a nasty taste in the mouth at the very moment we should be smacking our lips with glee.

An excessive, self-indulgent running timedoesn't help.

Mark Wahlberg as Tommy Saunders in Patriots Day; inset, Dane DeHaan as Lockhart in A Cure for Wellness

Cake Bookworm

Three Daughters Of Eve **by Elif Shafak is published in hardback by Viking, priced £14.99 (ebook £7.99)**

FOR anyone trying to make sense of the current political tumult, Elif Shafak's timely novel is a good place to start. At first glance, it tells the story of Peri, a young girl from Istanbul, torn between the religiosity of her devout mother and the secularism of her irascible atheist father. At Oxford, she is determined to find out which of her parents is right about God and where her own beliefs lie. It's also the story of modern Istanbul and the constantly changing ley lines of politics, money, faith and patriotism. Perhaps, most significantly, this book is an intelligent exploration of the questions and anxieties thrown up by Trump and Brexit. It looks at how people of different faith and cultures view each other and shows us that many of the divisions we cling to are based on our own assumptions and lack of knowledge. Shafak's characters are forced to question everything as the author explodes myth after myth about right and wrong.

Euphoria **by Heinz Helle is published in paperback by Serpent's Tail, priced £11.99 (ebook £4.31).**

FIVE old schoolfriends trek through the wintry landscape of the Alps. It is the aftermath of some (vague) apocalyptic event, with their path taking in burnt-out cars, dead bodies and a general sense of desolation. In short chapters that feel like a series of bleak, brutal prose poems, Helle's writing (and Kari Driscoll's translation of it) creates a vivid, troubling and distinctly disturbing sense of quiet desperation. The narrator slides between flashback reveries of the world he's lost and the savage lifestyle of primal instinct he now inhabits. This grim eschatology makes for a dark and uneasy struggle to survive.

The Doll Funeral **by Kate Hamer is published in hardback by Faber & Faber, priced £12.99 (£5.69)**

FROM its opening lines, "My name is Ruby. I live with Barbara and Mick. They're not my parents..." bestselling author Kate Hamer's novel is disturbing and compulsive. We quickly learn teenage Ruby is physically abused by her repulsive stepfather, but must pretend the bruises on her arms and black eyes are a result of clumsiness. She vows to hunt for her real parents and from this point unfolds a curious and chilling tale of voodoo doll rituals, secrets, lies and surreal events. Kate Hamer's previous book The Girl In The Red Coat was a huge hit and The Doll Funeral looks likely to follow suit. With poetic, but crisp prose, she explores what it means to belong and how the past is far more entwined with the present than most of us imagine.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

An evening with William Ryan: St Helen's Church, Church Road, Benson. Join the Friends of Benson Library for an evening with the author. See williamryan.eventbrite.co.uk 7pm. £8.

Coles Book Club: Coles Books, 4 Crown Walk, Bicester. The book this month is *Everyone Brave is Forgiven* by Chris Cleeve. The book you buy from Coles is your ticket for the evening. Visit coles-books.co.uk/events 7pm. £7.99. 01869 320779.

Film: Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. '71, 95 mins, UK, 2014, Cert 15. Jack O'Connell plays Gary Hook, a British soldier sent to West Belfast in 1971. 7.45pm. £6. 01235 521976.

Grove RFC Girls' Rugby: Grove RFC, Recreation Lane, Grove. Contact rugby union for girls aged 11-18 in three age groups. 7pm. Annual membership £85 after three free sessions. 07970 292322.

Harwell Through the Camera Lens: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. An illustrated talk by Eric Jenkins. 7pm. £5 for Friends of VDM, £6 for visitors. 01235 771447.

Printed Fabric Lampshade: Millets Farm, Kingston Road Frilford. Use traditional block printing techniques to create your fabric design, then make it up into a drum lampshade. All tools and materials supplied or bring a piece of light coloured printable fabric measuring no less than 65cm x 22cm to create a 20cm drum lampshade. Or upgrade to a 30cm lampshade for an extra £5 (fabric no less than 97cm x 25.5cm). Shades can be used for lamps or pendant lights. £50 including lunch, tea & coffee and all materials. Call to book. 10am. 07974 081526.

Ramblers walk: By the church, Bledlow. Undulating 6½-mile walk via Saunderton and Lodge Hill. Pub stop at the end. 10am. 01844 213608.

FRIDAY

An Evening of Entertainment and Dance: Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage. Featuring poet and raconteur of Edinburgh Fringe fame Tina Sederholm and local band The Connection. Organised by Wantage Tennis Club raising funds to support Disability Tennis. See wantagetennisclub.co.uk 7.30pm. £15. 01235 767134.

Fun CiTiES: The Library, Main Road, Middleton Cheney. Illustrated talk by Brian and Kathy Goodey with images and stories from around the world. Tickets from the library or at ticketsource.co.uk/MCLSG 7.30pm. £6/£3. 01295 712949.

SATURDAY

Antique & Collectors Market: Kidlington Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Kidlington. 10am. Free. 01865 371494.

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Meet at the car park, Piddington and Widnell Park, Piddington. A moderately difficult circular walk taking in Muswell Hill with a picnic lunch stop. 10am. Free. 01869 278350.

Ducklington Crafty Cake Club: Ducklington Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington. Star bake cake for February is a carrot cake. 2pm. Memberships available, visitors £5. 01869 571500.

National Art and Design Saturday Club: Banbury and Bicester College, Broughton Road, Oxford. Free for 14-16 year olds. 10am. 0808 168 6626.

Regency Dance Class: All Saints' Youth and Community Hall, Roman Way, Didcot. Learn the steps and country dances, cotillions and quadrilles from the late 1700s and early 1800s. 2.30pm. £10. 01225 344353.

Silver fingerprint jewellery: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Half hour slots available to have fingerprints taken into silver and made into a hallmarked piece of jewellery. Suitable for children over one year old with no maximum upper age limit. 9.30am. £10 deposit. 01235 511550.

Sustainable Wallingford Barn Dance: Cholsey Great Hall, Fair Mile, Wallingford. Featuring local band, Traction, with their caller Pete North. Supper provided from the South Oxfordshire Food Education Alliance (SOFEA). 6.30pm. Under 16s and concessions £8, adult £15. 01491 651023.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Sparsholt Firs car park, Off B4001. SU343851 6.5 miles. A circular walk over Lambourn Downs via Parsonage hill Barn and the Ridgeway. Bring refreshments for en route break. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07746 061307.

Wantage Lego Group: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. This month's theme is Fairytales & Magic. Pre booking is essential, to register go to wantagelego5.eventbrite.com 9.30am. Free. 01235 771447.

SUNDAY

Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Brookside Primary School, Bucknell Road, Bicester. 5pm. 01844 281888.

MONDAY

'The Life and Times of the Vikings': St Kenelm's Hall, Brize Norton Road, Witney. Minster Lovell History Club. A talk by Martin Way including slides and Viking artefacts on show. Refreshments available. Raffle. 7pm. Free. 01993 775262.

Masons Apron Northwest Morris: Recreation Hall, Main Street, Long Hanborough. Masons Apron Ladies Northwest Morris winter practice season. 8.15pm. £5 annual fee plus £2 per week. 01993 200717.

Women's Self Defence and Fitness Class: The Pavilion, Roosevelt Road, Long Hanborough. Ages from 13 upwards. 8pm. £5. 07834 022463.

TUESDAY

An Evening with Charlie Waite: The Witney Corn Exchange, 19 Market Square, Witney. Charlie Waite, who is an internationally renowned landscape photographer, has exhibited not only at the Royal Academy in London but in America and Europe. 7pm. £15. 01993 702687.

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Juniper Hill, Meet near the Lakes, Fringford Road, Cottisford. A leisurely 4.5-mile ramble towards Juniper Hill and around the Tusmore Estate. 10am. Free. 07939 826412.

Craft session: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Experimental night with a variety of crafts to try. All materials, tools and refreshments provided and you pay what you thinks it's worth. Book in advance. 7pm. 01235 511550.

Pyrography: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Make a special wooden bookmark for a friend, relative or offspring for World Book Day using wood burning techniques. Booking required. 10am. £18. 01235 511550.

Visit to The Old Chapel Textile Centre: National Needlework Archive, The Old Chapel, New Greenham Park, Greenham, Thatcham. The Friends of the Vale & Downland Museum day trip. Cost includes coach travel, entry, talk and coffee/tea and cake. Coach will leave at 9am behind Wantage Library on Seesen Way. To book see friendsofthevdm.org.uk 9am departure. £14 for Friends of VDM or £16 for visitors. 01235 771447.

WEDNESDAY

Grove RFC Ladies Rugby: Grove RFC, Recreation Lane, Grove. 7pm. Annual membership £70 after three free sessions. 079702 92322.

Knit a beanie hat: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. The course will be over three weeks and you'll learn to cast on, knit, purl, decrease and cast off. All materials included for £30. 7pm. £30. 01235 511550.

Oxford Transformed in the 18th & 19th Centuries: The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Speaker Malcolm Graham. Members free, £2 for guests. 7.30pm.

Witney Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. 7pm. Monthly fees apply. 01844 281888.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Music

THURSDAY

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Alan Barnes & Gilad Atzmon's 'Lowest Common Denominator'. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz saxophonists. 8.30pm. £12, £10 (conc), £8 (student).

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: Crystallite, Easter Island Statues, Webs & Marionettes, Andy Wright. Local rockers. 7pm. £7.

The Cock Inn, Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8-11pm. Free.

The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford: Sober Dave, Ash Lewis, Screaming Culture, Dirt Miles Oh. Acoustic punk. 7pm. £3.

FRIDAY

Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton: Country & Western dance with Longshot. £6. 8.30pm. 01993 850682.

Jericho Tavern, Walton Street Jericho, Oxford: Chariots, Tilly Valentine and Wednesday Wolves. £5 otd. 8pm. 01865 311775.

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford: Academy of Ancient Music. 'Bach and the Italian Concerto'. £10-42. 7.30pm.

The Northcourt, Abingdon Utd, Northcourt Road, Abingdon: Fleetingwood Mac. Tribute to Fleetwood Mac. £10 advance, £12 door. 7.30pm. 01235 203203.

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Mike Nicholson. Oxford Folk Club. £6. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

Wine Vaults, Parsons Street, Banbury: Jamie Felton. Singer songwriter. Free. 9.30pm. 01295 261281.

Modern Art Oxford, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford: Experimental Improvisation and Composition. Featuring world premieres of compositions based on the work of Leonora Carrington. 7.30-11pm. £5.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Kanadia, Dirty Orange, Flowerpot, Beaver Fuel. Metal/hard rock. 8pm. £8 (adv), £10 (otd).

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Karl Blau. Folk/country veteran. 7pm. £10.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: The Majestic. London roots reggae veterans. 10pm. £5.

SATURDAY

Challow Park Concert Hall, Challow Road, Wantage: Concert celebrating 40 years of Wantage Music Festival. £10 adults, £5 students/children. 7.30pm.

Cowley Workers SC, Between Towns Road, Cowley: Doug & Dan. 9pm. 01865 772970.

Marston Royal British Legion, Hadow Road, Marston: Jacquie Faye. Free. 8pm. 01865 243991.

Royal Standard, London Road, Headington: Joe Holic. Free. 8.30pm. 01865 764591.

St Peter's Church, First Turn, Wolvercote: Inaugural Jennings Organ Recital with: David Bednall, Organist of the University of Bristol, Sub Organist at Bristol Cathedral, conductor of the University Singers composer and pianist. £10 (£8 concessions). 7.30pm. 01865 512258.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: The Epstein and Sean Taylor. £11 advance, £13 on the door. 8pm. 01865263990.

The Queen's College, High Street, Oxford: The Eglesfield Musical Society Saturday Recial Series. Vocal recital with Jack Granby. Free with retiring collection. 1.30pm. 01865 279120.

The Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford: Nick Cope's Song Book. Music gigs for children and families. £5/£3. 10.30am. 01865790050.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Gimme Gimme Gimme. ABBA tribute. £17.50, £15.50 concs. 7.45pm. 01608 642350.

The Vaults Café, University Church, High Street, Oxford: Squeezy's Supper Club – John Spiers concert and dinner. £17/£15 concessions. 7pm. 01865 881896.

The Wheatsheaf, High Street, Oxford: Grub, Downard and Old Ernie. £4.50, cheaper advance. 8.20pm. 01865 395327.

University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford: St David's Day Concert with the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist Samantha Oxborough. Interval wine and Welsh cakes included. £12. 7.30pm. 01235 203929.

Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford: Laura Van Der Heijden with the Ripieno Players. Elgar's Cello Concerto plus recent Oxford alumni and Philip Bates Award winner Alexander Ho unveils a world premiere. £12/6 concs. 8pm. 07860 807183.

The White House, 38 Abingdon Road, Oxford: Headington Hillbillies . Bluegrass/country. 9pm. Free.

West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford: Jazz Brunch with Nick Gill. Ragtime Revisited with Willie 'The Lion' Smith – how ragtime evolved to the great jazz of the 1920s. 11am-1pm. £6.50/£5 concessions (kids free).

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Last Rites, Echo4four, Raised By Hypocrites, Lest We Forget, Masiro. Hard rock and heavy metal. 6pm. £8. White Lies. Indie rockers are promoting latest album *Friends*. 6.30pm. £20.50.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Osprey, Beard Of Destiny, Earinade, Temper Cartel, The Shapes, Ash Lewis. Blues and rock. 7pm. £7.

Cricketers Arms, 102 Temple Road, Cowley: The Summits. Covers duo. 8pm. Free.

SUNDAY

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: No Horses, Tony Batey & Sal, Purple May, Tom Ivey and Mark Bosley. Downstairs bar. 3.30pm-8.30pm. Free.

Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford: Four Young Pianists. A special concert featuring four young pianists from the Purcell School and the Junior Royal Academy of Music: Firoze Madon, Magdalene Ho, Sawa Ward, and Jeneba Kanneh Mason. Proceeds in aid of the College Charity, AMREF Health Africa. £8; £5 students. Children free. 5pm. 01865 274100.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Alex Hutton Trio. Piano, violin and bass. 6.30-9pm. Free.

Florence Park Community Centre, Cornwallis Road, Oxford: Band Of Hope, Mighty Redox. Family friendly session with folk rockers and psychedelic rockers. 2pm. £5.

White Hart Community Pub, 126 Godstow Road, Wolvercote: Sun Assembly supported by Sharyn Hyde. 8pm. £3 suggested donation. 01865 511978.

MONDAY

The Red Lion, 40-42 Oxford Road, Old Marston: Bluegrass and Old Time/Appalacian Jam. 8-11pm. Free.

TUESDAY

Gladiators Hall, Junction Iffley Road/Percy Street, Oxford: Eastside Rhythm Kings. New Orleans/Dixieland jazz, 8pm.

The Mad Hatter, 43 Iffley Road, Oxford: Ben Clapin Sextet. Oxford University Jazz Society. 8.30pm. £4/£3.

WEDNESDAY

Brill Sports and Social Club, Church Road, Brill: Jubilee Jazzband. Free. 8.30pm. 01844237237.

Garth Park, Launton Road, Bicester: Music From the Heart. An evening of fun with sound with Chris James. After a short evening concert the participants will be singing together. £12 pre-booked, £15 on the door. 7pm. 07840 273831.

The Queen's College, Chapel, High Street, Oxford: Organ Recital Series. Peter King. Free with retiring collection. 1.10pm. 01865 279125.

Theatre

Andrew Wiles Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford: Until Mar 5, *1984*. Creation Theatre. 7.30pm. £18-£23. 01865 766266.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Feb 25, Dana Alexander, John Lynn, Chris Cairns and Alistair Williams. Glee comedy. 7.45pm. £15.95.

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Feb 25, *Krapp's Last Tape*. By Samuel Beckett. 7.30pm. £6. Until Feb 25. *The Nightingale and The Rose*. 9.30pm. £5.Feb 28-Mar 4, *Contractions*. A sharp commentary on the increasingly Orwellian nature of corporations and the state. 7.30pm. £5. 01865 305305.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Feb 25, *Silver Lining*. New comedy by Sandi Toksvig. 7.30pmn. £11.50-£28. Feb 28-Mar 4, *The Winter's Tale*. 7.30pm. £11.50-£28. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Until Feb 25, *Wonderland*. 7.30pm. £21.40-£48.90 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Feb 26, *Brendan Cole: All Night Long*. 7.30pm. £30.90-£46.40 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot: Feb 23, *Frankenstein*. 7.30pm. £15 (£13.50). Feb 25, *Good Dog*. 7.30pm. £15 (£13.50 concessions). Feb 26, *The Boy and the Mermaid*. Family and children's theatre. 2pm. £8 (£6). 01235 515144.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Flash Nash bags Puritans a point

United bounce back but lose ground in top-five race

FOOTBALL

GEORGE Nash's first-half strike saw Banbury United come from behind to earn a point at home to Weymouth, but they slipped further adrift of the play-offs.

The 1-1 draw left the Puritans nine points behind the Premier Division's top five.

Mike Ford handed a debut to Tom Winters after the winger signed on a month's loan from Oxford City, but Andy Gunn has been released.

Banbury's other new signing, Manny Duku, was on the bench.

The Puritans got off to a nightmare opening, when Jack Westbrook bundled over Ben Thomson in the penalty area on three minutes and Charlie Davis made no mistake from the spot.

Banbury grew into the game and levelled on 22 minutes.

Jack Self found Nash, who hit a shot high into the top corner from the edge of the area.

The visitors dominated early on in the second half, but Banbury created the better opportunities.

Self fired wide, before Ricky Johnson headed Eddie Odhiambo's cross just over the bar.

Weymouth's Tiago Sa stabbed wide after a scramble as the sides had to settle for a point apiece.

Banbury Utd: Harding, Westbrook, Winters (Humphreys 88), Nash, Carnell, Self, White (Odhiambo 60), McDonagh (Duku 76), Johnson, McEachran, Martin. Subs not used: Bradbury, Smith.

Attendance: 411.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division (up to February 18)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chippenham Tn	36	22	10	4	74	40	76
Merthyr Tn	35	19	11	5	64	27	68
Leamington	33	20	8	5	56	23	68
Hitchin Tn	33	20	8	5	57	29	68
Slough Tn	33	21	4	8	63	37	67
Banbury Utd	**35**	**17**	**7**	**11**	**52**	**31**	**58**
Frome Tn	34	15	11	8	63	50	56
Kettering Tn	34	16	7	11	62	45	55
Chesham Utd	32	15	7	10	54	38	52
Biggleswade Tn	35	14	10	11	60	48	52
Basingstoke Tn	35	14	5	16	45	56	47
Weymouth	35	11	13	11	60	46	46
St Ives Tn	35	12	10	13	42	56	46
King's Lynn Tn	34	10	15	9	48	51	45
Dunstable Tn	33	13	4	16	36	42	43
Redditch Utd	36	12	7	17	44	61	43
Stratford Tn	35	8	14	13	48	54	38
Dorchester Tn	34	9	8	17	41	61	35
Kings Langley	36	8	10	18	46	60	34
St Neots Tn	34	9	4	21	49	83	31
Cambridge City	34	7	8	19	36	59	29
Cirencester Tn	35	7	8	20	40	76	29
Hayes & Yeading	33	6	9	18	32	59	27
Cinderford Tn	31	5	2	24	35	75	17

Josh Deegan (left) strains for the line for Banbury Picture: Steve Wheeler

Banbury suffer an unwanted double against rivals Quins

RUGBY UNION

BANBURY lost to Oxford Harlequins for the second time this season as they went down 33-28 at Bodicote Park.

Banbury opened the scoring in the South West 1 East clash with two penalties from Ed Phillips.

Quins hit back when Huw Dimond went over on 28 minutes.

Sam Watkinson's super try, converted by Dimond made it 12-6.

Bulls replied when Jed Boyle went over, but Quins took a 19-11 lead into the break, thanks to Archie Van Dijk's try.

Ed Yeats's try and a Dimond conversion stretched the lead after the break, before Banbury responded through Josh Deegan's converted try.

Bulls were breached by Ollie Jenner, but earned a losing bonus point thanks to a Sam Stoop try and Phillips penalty.

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

I can see what a long road you have travelled and how hard it has been for you to make sense of recent events. What I know about the week ahead is that you finally make sense of mixed messages. Honest talks with older faces help you to find a solution to what was a long standing problem. Ring now to hear why you'll soon need your passport.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

I know you're finding it hard to work out what a loved one really wants from you, but Mercury has not made communication easy among any of the signs of late. Luckily for you, Wednesday sees you with clarity and understanding which can mend a situation you were almost ready to give up on. Ring now so we can talk about the future you really want and desire.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

There don't seem to be enough hours in the day for you lately and you may spend much of your time trying to decipher what close one's actions really mean. Family prove demanding, but actually for some very valid reasons, so try to listen and help them with their needs. It can stand you in good stead when you need the favour returned. Ring now and I'll tell you a secret about love.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Don't ignore letters, emails or any forms of communications, but deal with them. It's the only way you'll be able to find satisfaction and relaxation in what has quite clearly been a very demanding few days and weeks. Cancelled weekend plans make way for much better times with more compatible faces. Ring now so we can talk about the lies which were recently told.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

There is an array of mixed emotions making it really hard for you to know with whom your loyalties should lie. Try to take some time out this week to work out what you really want. I can see from your stars that you've been following others when you should have been following your heart. Ring now to hear how Saturn promises solutions to financial quandaries.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Tasks which you thought would get the better of you turn out to be easier to cope with than you had dreamed. You must have more faith and belief in yourself my friend. Remember what they say. If you think you can, you will and if you think you can't, you won't. Believe in you. Ring now to hear why I know that 2017 can be one of your most rewarding and successful years yet.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Are you leading the life you want, or the life which others have chosen for you? Only you can answer this question. This is the week you have the power to change things and shape them to your needs and desires. A new attraction shakes up your world and could change what you want from your future. Ring now to hear why this is such a positive thing.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

It would seem from your stars that you've been blaming the wrong person and it could well be that you owe someone a very big apology. Taking care of what you do and the way you do it can go a long way to you building up trust with the new faces around you. Remember to honour all weekend promises you made please Scorpio. Ring now to make life the best it can be.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

It would seem that you have been, and continue to be, taken advantage of by a familiar face. You've known this for a while, but felt unable to do anything about it. Not anymore though. Those who try to pull the wool over your eyes will be in for a very big surprise. Ring now to hear why it's imperative you stick to all travel plans in the days ahead.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Make sure that you have all of your facts straight before you go accusing those around you of things they may not have done. You of all signs should know what it's like to be judged unfairly, especially after what you went through at the end of last year. New faces help you feel like you again. About time too. Ring now to hear why this is a lucky week to sign forms.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

A situation which hasn't been working out takes a turn for the better and you no longer feel like the victim. More like the hero in fact. Don't tell lies to family about your situation. They already know far more than you think about what's been occurring recently. Making up with the opposite sex feels really good right now. Ring now so I can help you draw on your many strengths.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

I know you feel as if you have been judged too harshly by those around you, but it's only because your loved ones care for you that they have been so vocal in their opinions. Give them time. By Friday they're sure to have a compromise ready to offer you. Wear blue for luck in first dates and meetings. Ring now so I can show you what a wonderful future is waiting for you.

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8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Announcements - Public Notices

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I, PETER ANDREAS MICHAEL AND MICHAEL JAMES MICHAEL OF JP & M HOLDINGS LTD. APPLIED ON 16th FEBRUARY 2017. TO CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL, IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS MIRAGE VENUS NIGHTCLUB – 47A BROAD STREET BANBURY OXON OX16 5BT.

UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982, FOR THE RENEWAL OF A SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE FOR A SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE. FOR THE INTENDED DAYS AND OPENING HOURS OF MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY: 22:00 - 02:30. THURSDAY TO SATURDAY: 22:00 - 04:30

ANYONE WISHING TO MAKE **OBJECTIONS** TO THIS APPLICATION MUST DO SO IN WRITING TO: Licensing, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 4AA

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Verney Road

Martin & Co present a two bedroom spacious apartment situated within walking distance to the town centre & train station.

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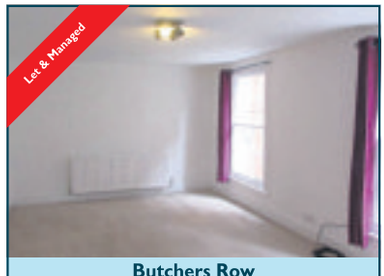
flat 2 Dorita House

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this new to the market spacious one bedroom flat available within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises: entrance hall, living room, kitchen, bedroom and separate bathroom. It is unfurnished, neutrally decorated throughout. The property benefits from allocated parking. EPC rating D

£595.00



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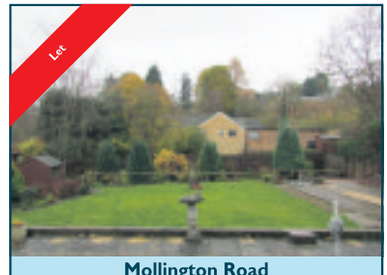

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Extrovert – Extroverts seek out others to bounce ideas off and thrive in a busy team environment. They are happiest when juggling several tasks at the same time. A bank teller – in constant contact with customers and carrying out a variety of different types of transactions and requests – is a great fit.

Extroverts are also found in sales roles where their charisma helps them to be forward, sociable and persuasive. Sales jobs tend to be results-driven and this can be a real motivator.

Introvert – Introverts particularly enjoy getting absorbed in one task and seeing it through to completion. They have great concentration and because of this can carry out their work thoroughly and meticulously. The role of an auditor requires efficiency and accuracy above all else. The job involves detailed work collating, checking and analysing data and needs a single-minded approach. Does this sound like you?

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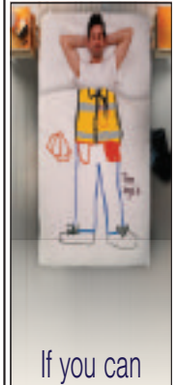

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